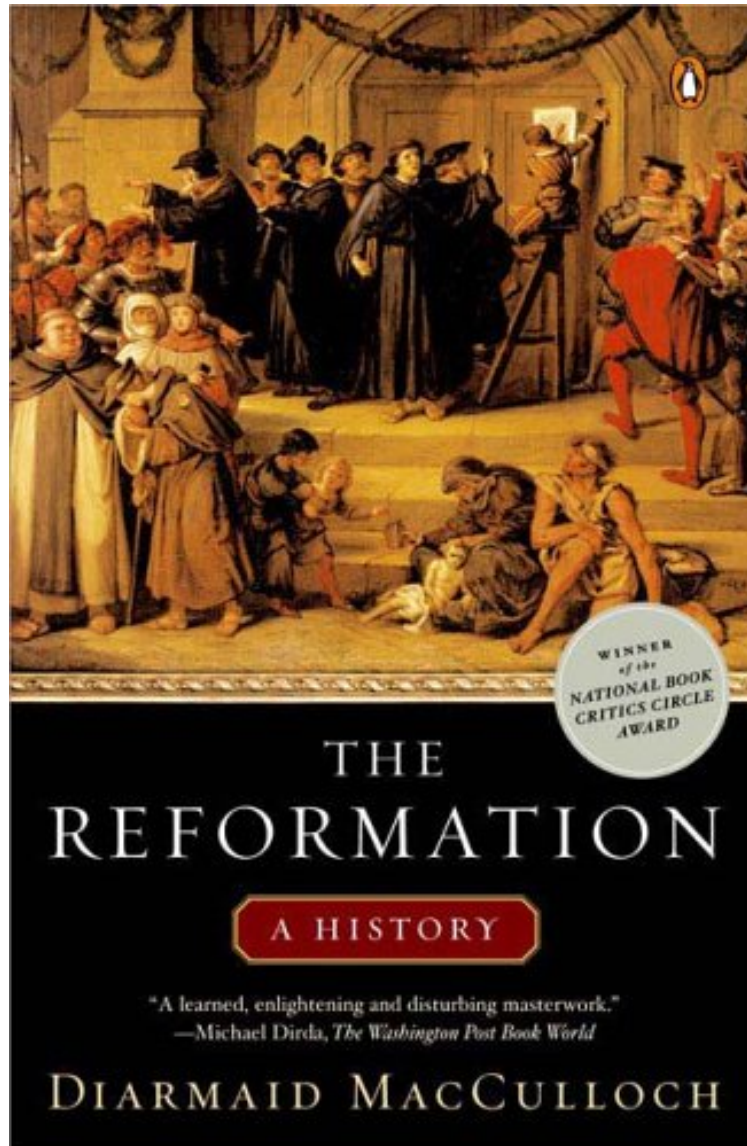


The Reformation: A History

Diarmaid MacCulloch

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#23392 in Books Diarmaid MacCulloch 2005-03-25 2005-03-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.39 x 1.50 x 5.44l, 1.55 #File Name: 014303538X864 pages The Reformation A History | File size: 55.Mb

Diarmaid MacCulloch : The Reformation: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reformation: A History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive and worthwhile By terry mccabe Not completed listening yet, but it is comprehensive and well structured. Perhaps a little more of the author's personal perspectives come through in the writing than I was expecting, and less connection with the medieval crusading movement than I expected, but overall a work that allows a non-academic to develop a deeper understanding of the topic. 0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. WAHJ78By WAHJ78Thank you!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy jimmy h. cobbexcellent

The National Book Critics Circle Award-winning history of the Reformation from the New York Times bestselling author of *Christianity At a Time When Men and Women Were Prepared to Kill and Be Killed for Their Faith*, the Protestant Reformation tore the Western world apart. Acclaimed as the definitive account of these epochal events, Diarmaid MacCulloch's award-winning history brilliantly re-creates the religious battles of priests, monarchs, scholars, and politicians from the zealous Martin Luther and his Ninety-Five Theses to the polemical John Calvin to the radical Ignatius Loyola, from the tortured Thomas Cranmer to the ambitious Philip II. Drawing together the many strands of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and ranging widely across Europe and the New World, MacCulloch reveals as never before how these dramatic upheavals affected everyday lives overturning ideas of love, sex, death, and the supernatural, and shaping the modern age.

.com Diarmaid MacCulloch wrote what is widely considered to be the authoritative account of the Reformation a critical juncture in the history of Christianity. "It is impossible to understand modern Europe without understanding these sixteenth-century upheavals in Latin Christianity," he writes. "They represented the greatest fault line to appear in Christian culture since the Latin and Greek halves of the Roman Empire went their separate ways a thousand years before; they produced a house divided." The resulting split between the Catholics and Protestants still divides Christians throughout the Western world. It affects interpretations of the Bible, beliefs about baptisms, and even how much authority is given to religious leaders. The division even fuels an ongoing war. What makes MacCulloch's account rise above previous attempts to interpret the Reformation is the breadth of his research. Rather than limit his narrative to the actions of key theologians and leaders of the era Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Loyola, Cranmer, Henry VIII and numerous popes MacCulloch sweeps his narrative across the culture, politics and lay people of Renaissance Western Europe. This broad brush approach touches upon many fascinating discussions surrounding the Reformation, including his belief that the Latin Church was probably not as "corrupt and ineffective" as Protestants tend to portray it. In fact, he asserts that it "generally satisfied the spiritual needs of the late medieval people." As a historical document, this 750-page narrative has all the key ingredients. MacCulloch, a professor of history at the Church of Oxford University, is an articulate and vibrant writer with a strong guiding intelligence. The structure is sensible starting with the main characters who influenced reforms, then spreading out to the regional concerns, and social intellectual themes of the era. He even fast forwards into American Christianity showing how this historical era influences modern times. MacCulloch is a top-notch historian uncovering material and theories that will seem fresh and inspired to Reformation scholars as well as lay readers. --Gail Hudson From Publishers Weekly Many standard histories of Christianity chronicle the Reformation as a single, momentous period in the history of the Church. According to those accounts, a number of competing groups of reformers challenged a monolithic and corrupt Roman Catholicism over issues ranging from authority and the role of the priests to the interpretation of the Eucharist and the use of the Bible in church. In this wide-ranging, richly layered and captivating study of the Reformation, MacCulloch challenges traditional interpretations, arguing instead that there were many reformations. Arranging his history in chronological fashion, MacCulloch provides in-depth studies of reform movements in central, northern and southern Europe and examines the influences that politics and geography had on such groups. He challenges common assumptions about the relationships between Catholic priests and laity, arguing that in some cases Protestantism actually took away religious authority from lay people rather than putting it in their hands. In addition, he helpfully points out that even within various groups of reformers there was scarcely agreement about ways to change the Church. MacCulloch offers valuable and engaging portraits of key personalities of the Reformation, including Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli and Calvin. More than a history of the Reformation, MacCulloch's study examines its legacy of individual religious authority and autonomous biblical interpretation. This spectacular intellectual history reminds us that the Reformation grew out of the Renaissance, and provides a compelling glimpse of the cultural currents that formed the background to reform. MacCulloch's magisterial book should become the definitive history of the Reformation. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In the West, religious conviction is generally viewed as a private matter, and tolerance is enshrined in our secular creed. So it may seem incomprehensible that a few centuries ago Europeans enthusiastically slaughtered each other over what, today, seem trivial doctrinal differences. MacCulloch, an Oxford University professor, makes clear in this comprehensive and superbly written history of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation that men of the sixteenth century did not regard these differences as trivial. He seamlessly weaves his account of religious differences into the fabric of political disputes between German princes, the papacy, and monarchs of nation-states. In his portraits of the major personalities, including Luther, Calvin, and Ignatius of Loyola, it is striking that most of them claimed to desire a return to a "purer" or more "catholic" Christianity as envisioned by the church fathers. This is an outstanding work that examines fairly and objectively a definitive epoch in the history and spiritual development of the Western world. Jay

